ANNUAL REPORT

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

2005-2006

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The Honourable Barbara Hagerman
Lieutenant Governor of Prince Edward Island
Government House
P.O. Box 846
Charlottetown, PE C1A 7L9

May It Please Your Honour,

It gives me great pleasure to submit the Annual Report for the Department of Development and Technology for the fiscal year 2005-2006.

I am delighted to be the Minister of a Department with such a range of responsibilities. Staff are the critical foundation for any organization. I would like to thank my staff for their efforts during the year.

It is my privilege to endorse this 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Department of Development and Technology.

My staff and I are looking forward to working with Islanders to further develop the economy of our Province.

Sincerely,

Michael F. Currie
Minister of Development and Technology
Province of Prince Edward Island

Honourable Michael F. Currie
PEI Department of Development and Technology
P.O. Box 2000
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Dear Minister,

It is my pleasure to submit herewith the 2005-2006 Annual Report for the Department of Development and Technology.

Economic development offers the promise of jobs and wealth for Islanders. The foundations for economic development are successful businesses, a positive business climate and skilled employees. Government's role is to work as a partner with the private sector to facilitate the development of the economy.

It is my privilege to endorse this 2005-2006 Annual Report of the Department of Development and Technology.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with our energetic, loyal and imaginative employees, and our business partners, to create jobs and wealth on Prince Edward Island.

Yours sincerely,

J. Reagh Hicken
Acting Deputy Minister

OVERVIEW

MISSION

The Department of Development and Technology leads the development of government policies which produce the conditions necessary for sustainable, province-wide economic growth.

The Department, its subsidiaries and divisions also implement and manage programs which:

- Support sustainable economic growth through active partnerships with the private sector, citizens, communities and other governments, and

- Assist communities across Prince Edward Island to build capacity, resiliency and opportunity.

VISION

Prince Edward Island is a province of opportunity. Sustainable, high value-added products and services continually increase the returns from our human and natural resource base, resulting in competitive levels of income, employment and productivity.

The provincial economy provides youth with multiple opportunities on which to build a satisfying career. The population continues to grow due to the attraction of capable individuals and families who choose PEI as their preferred place to live.

TOUR D'HORIZON

MISSION

Le ministère du Développement et de la Technologie mène l'élaboration de politiques gouvernementales qui produisent les conditions nécessaires pour la croissance économique durable dans l'ensemble de la province. Le ministère, ses filiales et ses divisions mettent également en œuvre et gèrent des programmes qui :

- appuient la croissance économique durable grâce à des partenariats actifs avec le secteur privé, les citoyens, les collectivités et d'autres gouvernements;

- aident les collectivités de l'ensemble de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard à établir une capacité de production, une capacité de récupération et des occasions favorables.

VISION

L'Île-du-Prince-Édouard est une province qui a de nombreuses possibilités à exploiter. Des produits et services durables à forte valeur ajoutée augmentent continuellement le rendement économique du stock de ressources naturelles et de l'effectif humain, ce qui mène à des niveaux concurrentiels en matière de revenus, d'emplois et de productivité.

L'économie provinciale offre aux jeunes de multiples possibilités sur lesquelles ils peuvent se bâtir une carrière satisfaisante. La population continue de s'accroître en raison de l'attraction des familles et individus compétents qui élisent domicile à l'Î.-P.-É. par préférence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Division provides support to all parts of the Ministry, including PEI Business Development Inc, PEI Food Technology Centre and the Atlantic Technology Centre.

Communications continued the effort, in conjunction with the Minister and other Ministry divisions, to produce information that highlighted the province's continuing strong economic growth, especially with job creation, exports, new business starts and sales.

The staff work closely with the Community Development Bureau, community groups and with federal funding partners to highlight the successes of the Bureau and its community partners.

The staff continued to provide support to the Minister and Deputy Ministers' offices. Support included speech writing, media releases, media events and briefing notes.

COMMUNITY AND LABOUR DEVELOPMENT

The Division is responsible for the Employment Development Agency (EDA), the Province's support for community development through the Community Development Bureau, and co-management of the Canada/PEI Labour Market Development Agreement (LMDA).

Staff contributed to labour force development through short term job creation, skills training, wage subsidy, and employment matching. Financial resources available through the LMDA, and complemented by those offered through EDA, allowed for a cooperative effort between the Federal and Provincial governments in support of labour force development.

The Community Development Bureau, comprised of four Cabinet Ministers, was supported by divisional staff located across Prince Edward Island.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

1) Forum of Labour Market Ministers (FLMM)

The Forum of Labour Market Ministers is a federal/provincial/territorial forum that fosters communication associated with policy and program development in support of labour force development.

Over the past year, the Division participated in meetings and conference calls that resulted in agreement among provinces/territories and the federal government on a Labour Market Framework Agreement (LMFA). The Agreement identified six priority areas; Immigrants, Aboriginal People, Workplace Training, Apprenticeship, Under-represented Groups, and Literacy.

In follow up to the LMFA, the Ministry continues to negotiate with the federal government with a view to establishing support for PEI's labour force development needs.

2) Older Worker Program

The Division successfully negotiated and implemented an agreement valued at $150,000 with the federal government to support the re-entry of older workers (age 55-65) into PEI's labour force. The average age of participants was 57. Twenty-four participants were assisted in securing employment.

3) Community Development Bureau (CDB)

The Division was supported by the Community Development Bureau comprised of Ministers of the following departments: Development and Technology; Health; Education and Attorney General; and Environment, Energy and Forestry. The Bureau met on three (3) occasions to review and recommend financial assistance for community initiatives. The Bureau helps to rationalize and focus the Province's participation in community based development.
The Division supported community development exchange tours involving approximately 100 community volunteers to broaden their knowledge and expertise in developing community based projects. Participants were transported to eastern and western regions of the Island and were hosted by local volunteers. On site presentations were offered to participants relating to local development processes, financing, construction, and project operations.

4) Canadian Rural Partnership (CRP)

The Canadian Rural Partnership is an initiative that strives to enhance the quality of life in rural communities and equip them to compete more effectively in a global economy.

Rural Teams working in each province and territory are responsible for implementing the Partnership. The Department of Development and Technology has representation on the Prince Edward Island Rural Team.

During fiscal year 2005/06, the following strategic priorities and initiatives were supported:

1) the PEI Youth Network,
2) Rural Governance Steering Committees,
3) the Pan-Atlantic Repopulation Task Team,
4) the Prince Edward Island Network of the Canadian Volunteer Initiative, and
5) the Prince Edward Island Federal Council.

The PEI Rural Team has been working closely with the three PEI models and test sites:

1) Youth Engagement in Rural Communities,
2) Carrefour d'immigration rurale, and
3) Community Consensus Building.

5) Community Services Bursary Program

The Community Services Bursary is a program developed to reward students who volunteer their time with provincially registered non-profit organizations. These organizations agree to accept students in Grades 11 and 12 who wish to volunteer. Students are then eligible to receive up to $500 based on the number of hours they volunteer. Bursary credits are posted directly to student accounts at recognized post secondary institutions.

Since the commencement of the Community Services Bursary Program in 2000, the bursary program has assisted over 2,600 Island students. This fall 388 students will receive bursary credits. There are currently 225 registered students in the program and over 500 organizations have benefitted from the volunteer work performed by Island students.

This is a program of the Department of Education although delivery in the community is performed by the Division's community development officers.

6) Healthy Child Strategy

The Healthy Child Strategy is a collaborative process between government and community and looks at strategic directions and objectives to improve the health, safety, security, success in learning and social abilities of children in PEI from ages 0-8. The Department of Development and Technology partnered in the Healthy Child Strategy and had representation on the Children's Secretariat. This department was involved through literacy, training and employment programs, and through community development.

This strategy has just recently been recognized as an international "Best Practice" in a report released by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

PROGRAMS

1) Community Development Fund

This fund contributes to initiatives which help to strengthen the local community. Sustainable projects which have a high degree of community involvement, local funding contributions, and multiple funding partners are normally considered for support.

Approved contributions in 2005-2006 totalled $534,455 and was shared among 27 projects. These projects had a total value exceeding five million dollars of which 14% ($702,415) was provided by the community. Some of these approved included the following: East Point Women's Institute for building improvements, Souris legion renovations, Eastern Kings Sportsplex improvements, Selkirk/Armadale hall improvements, Georgetown waterfront development, Belfast heritage sites improvements, Cardigan IT Centre, Fort Augustus heritage park and recreation centre Phase I improvements, PEI Service Memorial Fountain in Charlottetown, Clyde River hall renovations, Now London hall renovations, Phase V of Summerside Waterfront development, Summerside Boys and Girls Club renovations, Lennox Island IT Centre development, Tyne Valley Folk Music Centre, Abrams Village Craft Co-op improvements, Richmond Hall amenities, Mont Carmel hall renovations, Wellington and Area Boys & Girls club improvements, Miscouche Centennial Recreation Centre renovations, Le Bel Age Seniors housing, O'Leary Youth/Intergenerational Centre improvements, Tignish legion improvements, Tignish Community Beautification - Phase II, and Tignish Cultural Centre improvements.

2) Regional Development Support Program

This program assisted community based development organizations in various locations across the Island. Assistance accommodated essential gap funding in support of a community initiative. Contributions were used to plan new ventures, assist with short term operational costs where a long term sustainable plan was being realized or to provide gap capital funding to enable a community project to proceed. Approved contributions in 2005-2006 totalled $278,990 and was shared among 26 projects.

Following is a listing of some of the approvals/organizations which received support from the Regional Development Support Program in 2005-2006: Friends of Elmira for East Point Lighthouse improvements, Souris Main Street planning, St. Peter's Bay Centre repairs, Dundas Plowing Match, Cardigan heritage displays, Montague streetscape design, Montague waterfront acquisition, Fete Roma, Brudenell marina upgrades, Murray River development planning, Northumberland capital costs, Pinette Raceway Grandstand, Hillsborough River Area Dev. Corp for Mt. Stewart downtown

economic renewal study, PEI Harness Racing study, Crapaud site expansion and sewer drainage, College of Piping upgrades, Grand Ruisseau revitalization plan, Acadiania Cup, Maple Leaf Curling giftware plan, Resources West marinas' plan, and Women In Support of Fishing promotion.

3) Community Capacity Fund

The Community Capacity Fund enables communities and volunteers to plan development initiatives at the local level. The Fund allowed organizations to access professional assistance prior to implementation of community improvements. Some examples of requests supported included: volunteer training, incorporation fees, newsletters, forums, surveys, business or design plans, and development studies.

Organizations which received assistance through the Community Capacity Fund included: Southeast Environmental Association, Cardigan Community Development Association, Tignish Initiatives Corporation, Eastern Kings Community Enhancement Corporation, Egmont Bay Harbour Authority, Fort Augustus Recreation Club, Borden-Carleton Community Council, Island Trails-Confederation Trail Volunteer Committee, Central Development Corporation, Island Investment Development Inc., Souris housing, Breadalbane Village Council, and Resources West Inc. This Fund was utilized for approximately 13 activities with a total commitment of $30,843.

FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

Finance and Administration provides support services to the operating Divisions of the Department. Major areas of responsibility include:

- Budget preparation
- Expenditure monitoring and forecasting
- Purchasing
- Invoice and expense claim processing
- IT support
- Staffing
- Classification
- Payroll
- Staff development
- Other employee-related programs

POPULATION SECRETARIAT

In January 2006, the staff of the Population Secretariat, increased from a one person operation - Elaine Noonan, Executive Director - to three. Erin Docherty, Youth Liaison and Mentorship Officer, and JoAnn McQuaid, Executive and Research Assistant, joined Elaine.

PEI Immigration Forum

The PEI Population Secretariat hosted an Immigration/Settlement Forum on November 2, 2005. The forum provided an opportunity for government, communities, academics, industry and the general public to collaboratively determine how best to attract, integrate and retain immigrants to our Province. Participants' input was used in the creation of the Population Strategy.

Study of Recent Settlers to Prince Edward Island

A study was commissioned by the Secretariat in co-operation with the University of Prince Edward Island. The study consisted of qualitative and quantitative research on why people settle in PEI and why they stay. The target audience was individuals who have recently moved to PEI, between 1998 and 2003, whether they were immigrants or Canadians from another province.

School Presentations

Presentations were made in early May to schools, and will continue in the following school year, on the benefits of attracting immigrants to PEI, abolishing existing prejudices and enriching and diversifying our culture. One presentation is designed for students, the other for parents.

Welcoming Communities

Prince Edward Island communities have already begun to take independent action in the attraction and retention of immigrants and the Populations Secretariat is partnering in this endeavour. Prince Edward Island is experiencing a migration of people from rural areas to larger centres. Communities are beginning to take action to prevent out-migration and encourage attraction.

Immigrant Connections Category

The Immigrant Connections Category is unique to the PEI Provincial Nominee Program. PEI Immigrants or residents "champion" an individual for nomination. The Champions must have resided in PEI for two years after receiving permanent residency status, have a regular source of income and unblemished personal history. The process is simple; the Champion makes an informal written commitment to assist a potential nominee with their integration in PEI. This initiative is an excellent opportunity to build immigrant communities.

"Islanders By Choice"

The Population Secretariat's newsletter is designed to inform and keep in touch with government departments, partnering organizations, immigrants and the general public of the happenings within the Secretariat.

Participation in Expat/Emigration Fair 2006 - March 10/11, 2006, Utrecht, Netherlands

Exhibitions and free presentations from experts in a variety of related fields provided visitors and fellow exhibitors with copious amounts of resources about all aspects of expatriate life worldwide. The Expat/Emigration Fair catered to expats, emigrants, job seekers, entrepreneurs, students, as well as to professionals, all with varying backgrounds and skill sets.

Participation in Emigrate 2006 - March 17th - 19th , 2006, Esher, Surrey

Emigrate, the world's biggest and longest established emigration event provided the chance to find out everything one needs to know about starting a new life. The show involved seminars, covering specific information on all aspects of the emigration process, paneled by experts, government officials and successful migrants. Migration experts and officials were on hand to sort out the practicalities of moving abroad ie - employment, business and investment opportunities, etc.

Youth Focus Groups

Out-migration of youth has long been a problem in Prince Edward Island, yet keeping or bringing Islanders home is the best opportunity for growth due to the natural connection. The Population Secretariat has been mandated to meet with university, college and high school students across the province to determine what services are needed in order to keep youth.

A Focus Group *"For Youth By Youth"* was held Thursday afternoon, July 27th at the Atlantic Technology Centre. There were twenty-nine participants. Early results show the major concerns these post secondary students have are student loans and job opportunities (money).

International Students

Extended Work Experience - this initiative requests that graduates of publicly funded post-secondary institutions in PEI can remain and work in PEI for a second year after graduation. This initiative will enable graduates to further integrate into the community along with enhancing their personal and professional skills. Graduates who wish to apply for permanent resident status will have more time to submit their application for immigration and continue to work while awaiting a decision.

International students are now eligible to work off campus and for two years following graduation.

SINGLE WINDOW SERVICE

The Single Window Service Division was created in February 2003 and consists of two sections

(1) Access PEI
(2) Government of PEI website

The purpose of the Division is to provide quality services to Islanders through single window access to government programs, services and information in person and on the web. Islanders also telephone Access PEI with questions regarding government programs and services.

Access PEI

At one window of an Access PEI centre, customers can pay property taxes, register for sales tax, renew their driving licence, get a marriage licence or a fishing licence (or a host of other licences), apply for a government job or get information about a variety of services. Thousands of Islanders visit or call Access PEI seeking information about Provincial Government programs and services.

Access PEI is the public face of government throughout PEI providing Islanders with access to more than 200 provincial government programs and services on behalf of all departments.

Work has continued on the development of a comprehensive computer system that will improve customer service and make it easier for staff to deliver programs and services. The intent of the system is to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of Access PEI's operations.

Staff training is conducted on an ongoing basis to ensure that staff are familiar with the procedures involved in the delivery of programs and services.

There are Access PEI sites in the following locations:

- Tignish
- Alberton
- O'Leary

- Wellington
- Summerside
- Charlottetown
- Montague
- Souris

Government of Prince Edward Island Web Site

The objectives of the site are to:

- promote PEI as a place to do business,
- promote PEI as a place to visit, and
- provide information about Prince Edward Island to Islanders and Internet users alike.

The intent for 2006-2007 is to continue to build the Government's web site to include as much information about PEI as possible and to expand the e-government content at the web site. The Internet is a cost-effective means of distributing information and promoting PEI.

Islanders can now complete more than 100 forms on line. A government online page shows the range of e-government options now available to Islanders.

The Business Directory for the province was also updated. The Division also worked in close consultation with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs to revise and update their web site. Considerable time and effort is spent in working with departments and agencies to ensure that the information is up to date. A new look and feel was also introduced for the web site which also resulted in the re-organization of content to make it easier to find information on the site. Work has continued with support from the Government of Canada on re-vamping the french web site ensuring that more content is available to francophone Islanders.

All of these new information resources can be accessed at www.gov.pe.ca. There are more than 50,000 pages of information at the web site.

During Christmas of 2005, the Internet Information Centre enabled thousands of Internet users to send Christmas cards to other Internet users around the world and this proved to be a very popular feature. As well, the web site had a contest each day during the month leading up to Christmas.

An interdepartmental committee chaired by the Single Window Service Division works together to develop the content at the Internet site on behalf of the Province. The information on the Internet about Prince Edward Island has been growing steadily on an annual basis.

TRADE POLICY

Prince Edward Island's economy is increasingly dependent on the export of goods and services produced on the Island. Various international trade agreements that the federal government enters into provides the framework for Prince Edward Island businesses to conduct business around the world. The activities for trade policy development, advocacy and provincial coordination included:

- Overseeing input by the Government of Prince Edward Island into the Atlantic Procurement Agreement, an agreement entered into by the Council of Atlantic Premiers to reduce interprovincial barriers related to government procurement;

- served as PEI's Internal Trade Representative in coordinating and providing provincial input into issues raised under various chapters of the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT). The AIT is an agreement to reduce and eliminate trade barriers within Canada, entered into in 1995 among the provinces and the federal government. The trade policy section coordinated the PEI Government's participation in a Council of the Federation work plan to strengthen interprovincial trade and to re-invigorate the AIT.

- represented Government of PEI interests to the federal government on the Federal/Provincial Committee of Officials on International Trade. Key international trade agreements that were monitored and where input into issues was provided were: World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreements on Agriculture and Services; North American Free Trade Agreement; and, Canada-Chile Free Trade Agreement. As well, input was provided on negotiations related to several bilateral and regional free trade agreements that the federal government is engaged in with; Singapore, European Free Trade Area, Costa Rica and various other Caribbean and South American countries.

- provided trade policy advice to government departments, agencies or boards or represented the PEI government with respect to various trade disputes or issues including: Softwood Lumber Dispute with the United States; United States Legislation on Bioterrorism Related to Food Imports; US restrictions on cattle and beef related to BSE in Canada; US proposed passport identification requirements for visitors and returning Americans.

APPENDIX A

Department of Development and Technology
Organization Chart / Staff Complement

Departmental Staff Complement

Permanent

On March 31, 2006, the Department had 73 Permanent full-time equivalent positions. Following is a breakdown:

Departmental Management	6
Single Window Service	56
Community and Labour Development	11
	73

Casual

Approximately 9 employees were employed on a casual basis, primarily with the Single Window Service Division - 5 Access PEI and 3 Government Home Page.

APPENDIX B

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

Acts

Area Industrial Commission Act
Business Development Inc. Act PEI
Employment Development Agency Act
Institute of Man and Resources Act
Island Investment Development Act
Liquor Control Act
Maritime Economic Cooperation Act
Prince Edward Island Science and Technology Corporation Act

Boards/Commissions/Agencies

Anne of Green Gables Licensing Authority
Atlantic Technology Centre
Capital Commission Inc.
Charlottetown Area Development Corporation
Charlottetown Civic Centre Management Inc.
Community Advisory Boards (various)
Corporate Services Inc.
Employment Development Agency
Environmental Industrial Services Inc.
Food Technology Centre
Gateway Village Development Inc.
Island Investment Development Inc.
PEI Liquor Control Commission
Prince Edward Island Business Development Inc.
Science and Technology Board
Summerside Regional Development Corporation
Technology PEI Inc.

APPENDIX C

Expenditures by Division (1)	Unaudited Actual 2005/06 $	Budget Revised 2005/06 $	Budget Estimate 2005/06 $
Departmental Management	1,641,540	730,700	726,500
Single Window Service	2,807,086	2,897,600	3,007,600
Community and Labour Development	1,625,247	1,574,000	1,634,400
Total Department	6,073,873	5,202,300	5,368,500
Revenue	121,615	122,800	122,800

Notes:

(1) Detailed information is appended.

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
Expenditures by Division

	Unaudited Actual 2005/06 $	Budget Revised 2005/06 $	Budget Estimate 2005/06 $
Departmental Management			
Administration	44,424	40,700	40,100
Equipment	28,456	26,100	8,000
Materials, Supplies, and Services	33,771	28,800	25,400
Professional and Contract Services	47,474	44,500	26,800
Salaries	540,041	562,100	585,200
Travel and Training	26,784	28,500	41,000
Grant	920,590	0	0
	1,641,540	730,700	726,500
Single Window Service			
Administration	216,086	256,100	291,500
Equipment	23,524	20,900	13,100
Materials and Supplies	70,600	87,100	81,700
Professional and Contract Services	14.330	15,700	15,200
Salaries	2,449,290	2,469,600	2,558,000
Travel and Training	33,256	48,200	48,100
	2,807,086	2,897,600	3,007,600
Community and Labour Development			
Administration	12,898	13,900	13,200
Equipment	0	0	0
Materials, Supplies and Services	2,804	2,600	1,400
Professional and Contract Services	4,877	5,000	7,000
Salaries	607,185	616,200	722,800
Travel and Training	33,157	35,100	42,700
Grants	964,326	901,200	847,300
	1,625,247	1,574,000	1,634,400
Total Department	6,073,873	5,202,300	5,368,500